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HE'S RIDING A TIGER

# Donovan's Grim Task Fails To Impair Sense of Humor

*Liberator of Cuba Captives  
Wins Appreciation of Castro*

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Chicago Daily News Service

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NEW YORK—Cuban Premier Fidel Castro recently told Attorney James B. Donovan that the ambassador of Communist Romania had been asking about him.

"I told him you were a very unusual man, unique in my experience," Castro related. "I told him you might have become a great revolutionary, except for one quality — you have too good a sense of humor!"

THE MAN who negotiated the release of more than 3,500 Americans from Castro's Cuba laughed heartily. He then told another anecdote only a man with a sense of humor would tell.

It happened in February, 1962. Donovan had just returned from Berlin where he personally officiated at the exchange of Soviet master spy Rudolph Abel for American U-2 pilot Gary Powers and another American held by the Communists in East Berlin.

Newsman, foreign correspondents, television cameramen by the hundreds have been swarming through Donovan's 15-room duplex apartment overlooking Central Park in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Donovan has four children. This with the on Feb. 10 came and she never



JAMES DONOVAN

IN THIS downtown Manhattan overlooking the East River, Brooklyn and New York Harbor, he proudly displays another memento, a gift from spy Abel whom he defended by order of a US court for four years before arranging the Abel-Powers prisoner swap.

It is a 17th Century edition of commentaries on the legal code of Roman emperor Justinian.

Knowing Donovan collects old books, Abel sent back the rare item through Checkpoint Charlie in the Berlin wall after his release.

Removing a slip of paper pasted inside the cover, bibliophile Donovan found a bookplate showing a former owner was the exceedingly un-Markist Royal Library of Saxony.

THIS WEEK another ship left New York carrying more medicines and baby food promised Castro in the prisoner ransom deal. About

half of the promised total has reached Cuba.

The value to Castro is \$53,000,000. But American companies provided the drugs and baby food at an actual cost of less than \$23,000,000. Some companies even came out ahead after tax deductions. They have announced gifts of the "profit" to charities.

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